

**MORGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RIECKER BUILDING**

The Board of Morgan County Commissioners met in their office Monday, June 2, 2025.  
The meeting was called to order at 8:30am with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Cecil Mayle, President  
Heidi Maxwell, Vice-President  
Steve Best, Member

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The commissioners did the following over the past week:

Commissioner Maxwell attended Senior Citizens meeting Tuesday. She also was present at reopening of the Muskingum River Parkway State Park.

Commissioner Mayle attended A JAIL Board meeting on Wednesday. He also attended a Functional Exercise for EMA ON Thursday.

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\*Commissioners are in receipt of May expense, revenue and statement of cash report from the Morgan County Auditor.

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**25-271-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve the minutes of May 27, 2025.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

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***Al Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance***

Bragg's started installing new carpet and as of Friday 12-27-24 the conference rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors and the Treasurer's office are completed. They are moving to the Recorder's office 12-30-24 Commissioner's finished 1-2-25 Recorders Office is finished 1-10-25 Now working on the extension Office 1-8-25. Carpet will be replaced in the Auditors office 2-1-25 Auditors office Carpet replacement has been completed 2-2-25. Engineer is next to be done and they should start in June/July. 5-6-25

Called Modern Glass to check inside rear entry door, and entry door going into Workforce. The entrance door for Workforce slams very hard and can't be adjusted, all the oil has leaked out and the seals are bad. *Modern Glass Ordered new closer unit for Workforce and replacement Handi-cap button for main rear entrance door. 5-19-25*

Still awaiting Apperson's to replace sewer drain pipe in the basement Women's public restroom. Waiting for 10' cast iron pipe to come in. Scheduled for 6-4-25 After hours so we can close down upstairs restrooms.

Held Safety and Security Council Meeting to discuss Handrails, Doors and Ramps at the Courthouse and Sheriff's Department. 5-28-25

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*Al Eltringham, Riecker Maintenance; Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator*

### **Handrail Compliance and Installation**

Mr. Eltringham and Mr. Babcock discussed code requirements for handrails, referencing a location in Saintsville with 3 steps and a 17-inch rise near the sheriff's office, which does not require a handrail under code (the code specifies that a handrail is not needed if the rise is under 30 inches or there are fewer than 4 steps). Despite not being required, they noted that handrails are relatively inexpensive (priced under \$70 each) and easy to install, suggesting that adding them could be a prudent safety measure. There was mention of two handrails at the end of the sidewalk near the courthouse, with discussion about their appearance and installation quality, and that the county garage department had previously handled similar installations. The conversation also included concerns about the steepness of the steps and the importance of matching all handrails for consistency. They considered asking around companies about handrail options and ensuring all three handrails would match if installed.

### **Courthouse and Sheriff's Office Safety and Security**

The discussion addressed the courthouse's single point of entry, emphasizing security concerns. Plans were mentioned to install a fence between the gates to prevent escapes during prisoner transport, ensuring that individuals being transported cannot access certain areas. The possibility of wheelchair elevators as an alternative accessibility solution was briefly discussed, with the note that such options are acceptable under code. The sheriff's office was also discussed in relation to safety committee topics, including the impact of parked cars on access and visibility, and the recent grant received for case management systems.

### **BWC Safety Council and Workers' Compensation Updates**

Mr. Babcock reported on the Safety Council meeting attended by Scott Sinclair from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC), who is knowledgeable about BWC programs. Updates included changes to drug-free workplace grants: three separate programs are being

combined into one, allowing more flexible use of funds (e.g., all for drug testing if desired). There was discussion about drug testing policies, particularly regarding marijuana's potential change to schedule one status and how this could affect testing protocols. Currently, drug testing is typically conducted after workplace accidents. The disability relief act was also discussed, which allows employers to apply for relief if a workplace accident involves an employee with a disability or a military service-related injury, so that such incidents do not negatively impact their claims history. It was noted that service-related injuries can also qualify for this relief.

### **Future Procurement and Coordination**

The group discussed the possibility of reaching out to companies about handrail procurement and ensuring all three handrails would match if installed. There was mention of continued meetings, including those by the elevator in the courthouse hallway, and ongoing communication about safety and facility improvements.

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### ***Heidi Burns, JFS***

**25-272-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to approve the mandated share for State Fiscal Year 2025 in the amount of \$39,346.00. For June 2025 the total is \$3,278.83.

### **Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

1. Travel Requests
  - Heidi Burns, Missy Fisher and Joe Frazier to Cambridge on 6/3 for monthly East Central JFS meeting and Fiscal Training.
  - Heidi Burns to Columbus on 6/11—12 for monthly JFS board meeting
  - Heidi Burns & Kari Schaad to Columbus on 6-26—27 for quarterly PCSCO Execs meeting
  - Amy Moore to Marietta 6/3 for AOMC & OMJ collaboration meeting
  - Joe Frazier to Washington County, PA on 7/10—11 for Apprenticeship Summit
2. Mandated Share for June \$3,278.83

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### ***Julie Gridley, Pound Keeper***

Strays:

Surrendered: One

Adoptions: One

Transfer of ownership: Seven puppies, two moms from Burr Oak and Titan our pit bull were transferred to One of a Kind Pet Rescue in Akron, OH.

Donations: We received collars, dog sweaters, a dog bowl and a leash from a donor who wishes not to be acknowledged. Andrea Clemens who donated some items to the pound and a lady who donated half a bag of dog food.

Volunteers: Tammy and Cindy. Thank you so much for all your help this week. To Chaz and Katelyn thank you so much for your help with the yard, and helping fix my kennel.

We would like to thank Jeanie Addington, who graciously returned my kennel from the Burr Oak Facility. It wasn't her responsibility to bring it back to Morgan County. I greatly appreciate you volunteering your time to drive to McConnellsville.

On Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, One of a Kind Pet Rescue drove from Akron OH to pick up our puppies and two moms from the Burr Oak Rescue. In addition, I introduced them to Titan our pit bull who has been with us for a while. Titan started showing signs of Kennel Psychosis. This happens when dogs are kept in kennels for a long period of a time. They agreed to take Titan and give him a fresh start at a Rescue. Thank you so much Malone and Travis who drove three hours to pick up our fur babies and then endured another three hour ride back to Akron.

On Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, I had the pleasure of visiting the Perry County Animal Shelter. Kelly and Brendan were excellent hosts. I toured their facility, and observed their adoption process. In addition, Kelly shared her paperwork formats with me. They treated me to lunch which we enjoyed at their outdoor picnic table. In addition, she showed me how the Microchip process works.

It is such a pleasure that we can get together and share what we do at our pounds and how we each do our paperwork. So far, I have had the pleasure of meeting with Amanda at Muskingum K9 Adoption Shelter, the Muskingum County Animal Shelter, where April and her staff were amazing. And now Kelly and Brendan from Perry County. I still have several other facilities I would like to visit.

My goal is to make our pound a place the citizens of Morgan County are proud of, instead of ashamed of. Positive comments as well as positive reinforcement from the citizens of Morgan County instead of all the negativity.

**Becky Thompson, Dog Warden**

-Submitted report

-Full report can be found online at:

[https://www.morgancounty-oh.gov/dog\\_warden\\_reports.html](https://www.morgancounty-oh.gov/dog_warden_reports.html)

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**John Wilt, EMA/911 Director**

- Ohio Emergency Operations Center coordination calls monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 1300 hours
- Continuous review and revision of Emergency Operations Plans.
- Mitigation planning is still on hold awaiting information from State EMA.
- Continuing organizing information for June 30<sup>th</sup> handoff of position, list of deadlines, etc.
- Attended final planning meeting for LEPC exercise on 5/22/25.
- Held annual LEPC exercise – a functional exercise of the Emergency Operations Center. There were 23 participants and we passed the evaluation. Provided beverages and pizza for participants.
- Have exercise after-action meeting Thursday with contractor and planning committee.
- Submitted FY23 EMPG Supplemental cash request in amount of \$7394. Received reimbursement of 50%, per grant, in amount of \$3697 on 5/23/25.
- Submitted FY24 Q6 EMPG in amount of \$9929.77 on 5/27/25. Also submitted Q6 workplan.

**9-1-1 Report to Commissioners, 6/2/2025**

- Continuing to populate data for Sundance CAD.
- Received initial quote for radio system. Since it exceeded \$75,000 (\$120,838) I am preparing a request for proposal (RFP) to advertise. This will be detailed specifications for a 4-station console system that will include a link to the FD base radios. Radios and antennas to be installed in the Courthouse requiring only a network connection to the console system. This will make it possible to utilize the radio array from current center at Sheriff's Office and then from the new center when opened (with minimal expense for moving).
- Held two days (4 sessions) of training for Sheriff's Office on CAD/RMS. Transition is going well, with full go-live of the system occurring today at 0900 hours.

- Sheriff's Office is now operating on military time (24-hour clock) for precision and accuracy.
- Issues continue with the Eventide recorder.
- Have a meeting with Intrado tomorrow regarding 911 enhancements.
- The County needs to secure a relationship with a medical director for our EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatch) program. I am attempting to get a price from Dr. Paul Zeeb, who is the current medical director for M&M EMS.

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***Shannon Wells, Development Office***

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction announced on May 30, 2025 an award of \$1,212,093 through the Ohio Jail Safety and Security Program for the renovation of the Morgan County Jail.

The bid opening for SR60 water is scheduled for June 5, 2025 at 11am at the Morgan Meigsville Water District office.

Citizen participation meetings were completed last week in the Village of Malta and the Village of Stockport. A total of four pre-applications were submitted to Ohio Department of Development.

Village of McConnelsville—Residential Public Infrastructure (sewer project)

Village of Chesterhill—Critical Infrastructure (water project)

Village of Stockport—Neighborhood Revitalization

Village of Malta—Neighborhood Revitalization

Gabe Hays, Mannik Smith has recommended a barrier removal study for ADA compliance at the courthouse and sheriff's department.

A staff meeting will take place in Monroe County with transit employees on June 3, 2025 at 6pm.

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***Amber Wilson, Senior Centers Director***

### **App and hardware utilization**

Discussed that the app and hardware could still utilize the pickup, suggesting that this would provide peace of mind and that the pickup could continue to be used. There was mention of the hardware's ability to support this process, even if other circumstances change.

### **Shriner's Hospital final decision**

Referenced a final decision from Shriner's Hospital, expressing uncertainty about what the outcome would be. There was no confirmation provided, and it was indicated they did not think it would happen, but the situation remained unresolved.

### **Pickup process**

The pickup process was mentioned in the context of app and hardware utilization, with the implication that the process could still proceed or be supported by the existing technology.

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### ***Jeff Babcock, IT Administrator***

The IT Director attended the Zanesville – Muskingum Chamber of Commerce Safety Council meeting on Wednesday, 28 May 2025. Scott St. Clair from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC) was there to discuss various program updates from the Ohio BWC. The IT Director relayed this information to the Morgan County Safety Committee at their meeting following the Safety Council meeting in Zanesville.

The IT Director attended a mass casualty exercise at the Morgan County Emergency Management Agency on 29 May 2025. The IT Director served as the Public Information Officer the County Commissioners' office during the exercise and noted several opportunities for improvement. The first item would be to generate and print a call log sheet that can be used during a disaster that would require standing up an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Another item to look into would be the possibility of automated call recording of all calls to and from the EOC.

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### ***Transfers, Then & Now, Supplemental Appropriations & Utility Applications***

**25-273-**Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to transfer \$4,000.00 from 415-0415-5303.00 (program expenses) to 415-0415-5309.00 (general operating).

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

**25-274-** Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to supplementally appropriate \$5,000.00 into sheriff's law enforcement officer training contracts 033-0033-5306.00.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

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**25-275-**Motion by Mr. Best and seconded by Mrs. Maxwell to approve payment of bills. \*See attached\*

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

**25-276-** Motion by Mrs. Maxwell and seconded by Mr. Best to adjourn the commissioners meeting Monday, June 2, 2025 at 4:00pm.

**Mr. Mayle yea, Mrs. Maxwell yea, Mr. Best yea Motion Carried**

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**Cecil Mayle, President**

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**Heidi Maxwell, Vice-President**

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**Steven Best, Member**

**Sheila Welch, Clerk**  
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